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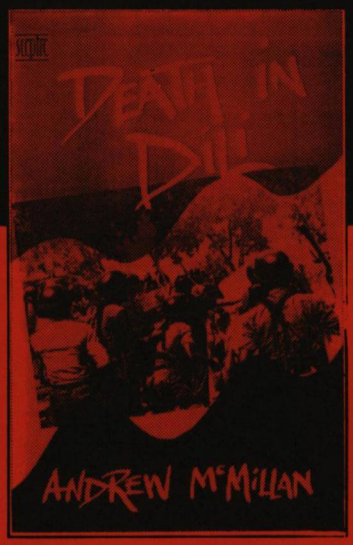
DEATH IN DILI

by Andrew McMillan



In November 1991, Indonesian soldiers opened fire on a crowd of mourners at a funeral in Dili, killing at least fifty people. It was a massacre that catapaulted the on-going tragedy of East Timor back into world focus.

Indonesia's brutal invasion of East Timor in 1975 and its subsequent annexation of the former Portugese colony had already resulted in the deaths of 200,000 people. Indonesia's annexation of East Timor is still not recognised by the United Nations.

In January 1990, while holidaying in Dili, Australian writer Andrew McMillan was caught in the middle of a pro-independence demonstration that was ruthlessly suppressed by Indonesian forces. That demonstration marked the beginning of a student campaign to peacefully evict Indonesian forces.

McMillan's quest to understand the background of the events he'd witnessed led him to the United Nations in Geneva, to meetings with Timorese refugees in Europe and Australia, to interviews with Australian commandos who fought alongside the Timorese in World War Two, and ultimately after the Dili massacre, onto the controversial seaborne peace mission aboard the Lusitania Expresso that was turned back by the Indonesian navy.

In the process, he gained an understanding of how and why the people of East Timor still refuse to accept Indonesia's brutal occupation of their homeland.

Death in Dili is required reading for anyone with an interest in the plight of Australia's nearest neighbour.

THE AUTHOR

Born in 1957, Andrew McMillan is a freelance writer whose work has appeared in a variety of Australian newspapers and magazines, including the *Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Age*, *The Australian*, *Sunday Telegraph*, *Playboy*, *Penthouse* and *Rolling Stone*.

His first book, **Strict Rules** - an account of Midnight Oil's Blackfella-Whitefella tour throughout the remote Aboriginal communities of the Northern Territory - was first published in 1988.

At the time of writing **Death in Dili**, he was living in the Northern Territory and working as PR Manager for Yothu Yindi.

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